

# COVER SHEET FOR AMENDMENT OF POST-TRAVEL SUBMISSION

Date/Time Stamp <b>RECEIVED</b> <b>SECRETARY OF THE SENATE</b> <b>PUBLIC RECORDS</b>  2019 OCT 10 AM 11:31
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**Instructions:** Use this form as a cover sheet for any paperwork you may need to submit to the **Office of Public Records** in order to make your Privately Sponsored Post-Travel Submission complete in accordance with Rule 35. **Only complete this form if you need to submit an amendment to a post-travel filing you have already submitted.**

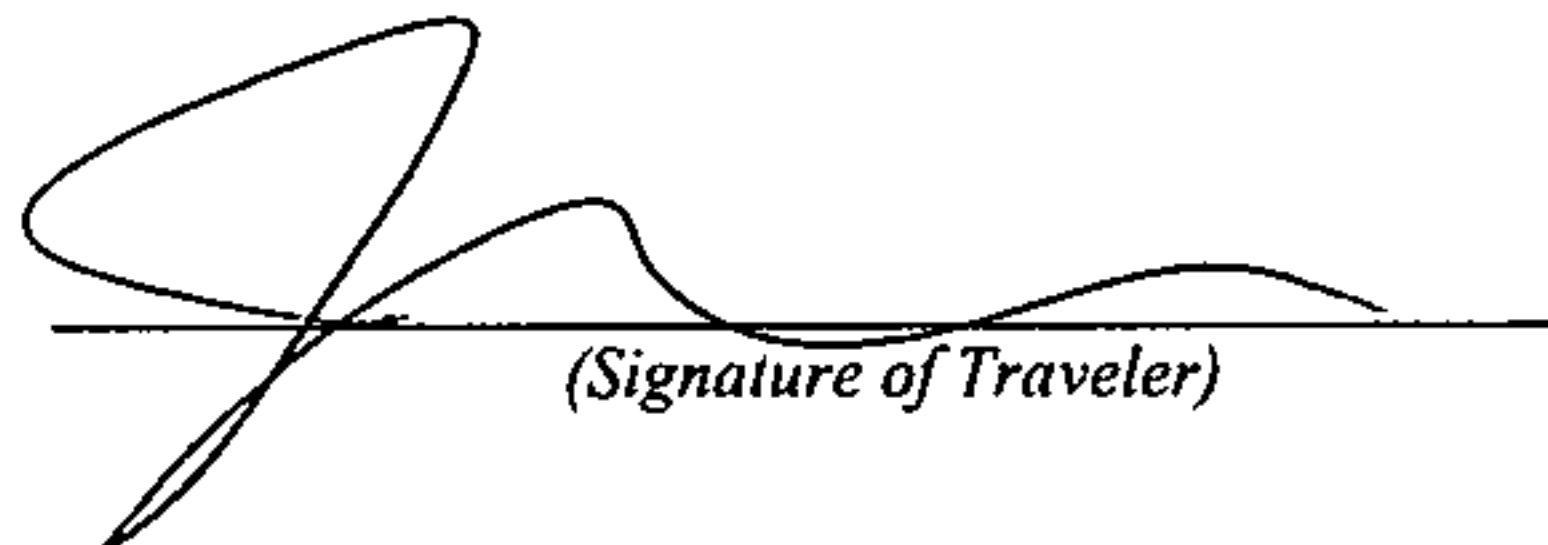
**SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING**

Name of Traveler: Joe Hack  
Employing Office/Committee: Office of Senator Fischer  
Travel Expenses Paid by (List all sources): The American Israel Education Foundation  
Travel Date(s): May 25 - June 2, 2019  
Description/Title of Attached Forms: Final, approved versions of Form RE - 1 and Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form

Purpose of Amendment (describe the reason for amending original submission): The amendment includes the final pre - travel forms.

10/9/2019

(Date)

  
(Signature of Traveler)

**Date/Time Stamp:**

Original submitted on  
4/25/19 @ 4:25 PM  
MST

ETHIC APR 30 '19 AM 10:41

Name of Traveler: \_\_\_\_\_ Joesph Hack

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)


*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.*

**Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:**

Name of accompanying family member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

Complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Employee)

I, Senator Fischer hereby authorize Joseph Hack  
 (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

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**The Senate Member, officer, or employee MUST also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.**

- Private Sponsor Certification - Page 1 of 4

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

– OR –

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

– OR –

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

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11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of the trip.

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13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about

the U.S.-Israel relationship. The delegation will have the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of

Israelis and Palestinians, and see first-hand the outcome of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation in the region.

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14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

Please see addendum

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- Please see addendum**

- round-trip, business class on a commercial airline, chartered bus and taxis on the ground in Israel**

- none**

- Signature of Travel Sponsor:**

E-mail Address: rhirsch@aiefdn.org

## Addendum

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for seven days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: Iran's continued malign regional activities; the impact of Syrian civil war along Israel's northern border; the internal political situations of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of the peace process; and the expanded cooperation between the U.S. and Israel in fighting terrorism and proliferation.

The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials, as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence. The seminar also aims to provide the political, historic, and religious context to the current conflicts and issues facing Israel and the region. It will explore the connection the three monotheistic religions have with the land and the influence this connection has on today's struggles. In addition to formal meetings and briefings, the trip provides experiential opportunities to help better understand the geographical complications, the security implications, and the historic root causes of the current conflicts.

Founded in 1990, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, students, political consultants, as well as Christian, Latino, African American, Progressive, and Veteran leaders. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country. The most recent Senate trip was in March, 2019.

**15. Other Educational Activities**  
AIEF grants support innovative and award-winning programming that educates a wide array of participants, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals.

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**-AIEF considers the security of its trip participants as its highest priority. A security team accompanies all participants throughout the trip.**

**Tour Guide: \$250.00 per person**  
**-As a detailed historical understanding is crucial to maximizing the educational aspect of the trip, a licensed tour guide accompanies the group throughout the trip.**

**Meals for contract staff and speakers: \$177.78 per person**

**Hotel Commission \$136.57**  
**-We pay a 7% hotel room commission to the company that books our hotels.**

**Airport Assistance: \$55.56**  
-We use a service to help participants navigate passport control and customs.

**Entrance Fees: \$50 per person**  
**-Several sites require an entrance fee, including the southern Western Wall excavations and the holy sites around the Sea of Galilee.**

**Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$33.33 per person**

**Photography: \$27.78 per person**  
-On each trip we take a group photo with a professional photographer

**Other: \$27.78 per person**  
**-Briefing materials, miscellaneous**

**Tips: \$6.39 per person**  
**-Tips for hotel staff**

## 21. Per Diem

**Meal expenses are equal to the per diem rate for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias. Lodging expenses are less than the per diem for Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias. Meal expenses include the cost for meals, snacks, and water on the bus. It does not include alcohol, as we do not pay for alcohol per Senate ethics rules.**



# United States Senate

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

May 22, 2019

Joseph Hack  
Office of Senator Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Hack:

This responds to your recent correspondence concerning an invitation you received to travel to an educational seminar in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias, Israel, on May 25-June 2, 2019, sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF). AIEF certified to the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) that it will pay the *necessary expenses*<sup>1</sup> related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, nor lobbying firm, nor agent of a foreign principal, and it is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. AIEF has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at *any point throughout your trip*.<sup>2</sup>

Based on information and materials available to the Committee, and assuming the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, it appears that the proposed payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses for this trip may be accepted under relevant Senate Rules and the Committee's *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel*, so long as at the time of the payment or reimbursement, AIEF is neither a registered lobbyist nor lobbying firm under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, nor an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (and is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government), and provided the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rules 34 and 35.

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel**.

<sup>1</sup> The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

<sup>2</sup> The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 2.

The Committee has determined that § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are classified as private foundations, as opposed to public charities, may not pay for transportation from the United States to a foreign country.<sup>3</sup> However, AIEF represented to the Committee that it is a § 501(c)(3) public charity, as opposed to a private foundation, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.<sup>4</sup>

Please be advised that the United States Constitution prohibits the acceptance of any gift, including a meal, from a foreign government without the consent of Congress. In the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), Congress consented to the acceptance by federal government officials of: (1) gifts of minimal value and (2) travel or the expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States, from a foreign government (which includes those acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government).<sup>5</sup> The Senate has defined minimal value as \$100 or less. Further, pursuant to FGDA, there are certain reporting and procedural requirements that are imposed upon Members, officers, and employees who accept gifts from a foreign government. Please review the Committee's "Dear Colleague" letter of January 11, 2019, setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,<sup>6</sup> on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$390 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

**If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.**

Sincerely,

Deborah Sue Maynor

**Deborah Sue Mayer**  
**Chief Counsel and Staff Director**

**Enclosure:      Travel Checklist**

<sup>3</sup> See 26 U.S.C. § 4941 et seq. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code broadly defines non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organizations. These § 501(c)(3) organizations are then further defined or designated as “public charities” and “private foundations.”

<sup>4</sup> 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

<sup>5</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 7342.

<sup>6</sup> A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$127,914 for CY 2019) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

Prior to Traveling: Receive a Letter of Approval from the Committee

- ☐ Obtain a letter from the Committee. You may only accept the trip after receiving a letter from the Committee specifically authorizing your participation in the privately-sponsored travel.

Post-Travel Disclosure

Within 30 Days of Conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel: Submit Completed Post-Travel Disclosure Package

*File with the Office of Public Records in SH-232*

- ☐ Ensure submission of Post-Travel Disclosure Package is timely.
  - ☐ Post-Travel Disclosure Packages must be submitted to the Office of Public Records within 30 days of completion of Privately-Sponsored Travel. Trip extensions for any purpose do not extend this deadline.
- ☐ Complete Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Expenses Form (Form RE-2)
  - ☐ Ensure this form is typed and that all of the fields are completed.
  - ☐ Ensure your supervising Senator or Officer has signed the form after determining the actual trip expenses were necessary under Senate Rules and the Committee's Privately-Sponsored Travel Guidelines.
  - ☐ Personally sign this form.
- ☐ Ensure Post-Travel Disclosure Package is complete. A complete Package includes:
  - ☒ Form RE-1
  - ☒ Form RE-2
  - ☒ Private sponsor invitation (the formal invitation, letter or e-mail you received from the private sponsor).
  - ☒ Completed and signed Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form (verify with the private sponsor that you have the correct and final version of the form).
  - ☒ All attachments to the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form
    - ☒ Complete and final itinerary
    - ☒ List of Senate invitees
    - ☒ Any other necessary attachments

Please contact the Committee if you have any questions.

Phone: (202)-224-2981

Fax: (202)-224-7416



**Joseph Hack**

Name of Traveler: \_\_\_\_\_

Employing Office/Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Deb Fischer

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel date(s): May 25-June 2, 2019

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Tiberias, Israel

**Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:**

**Please see attached - Representational Duties**

Name of accompanying family member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:**

6/20/2019  
(Date)

  
(Signature of Employee)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):**

I, Senator Deb Fischer hereby authorize Joseph Hack  
*(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)* *(Print Traveler's Name)*

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

6/20/2019  
(Date)

*Sub Fitcher*  
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



I currently serve as Senator Fischer's chief of staff, overseeing all policy matters that include the senator's work as a senior member of the Senate Armed Service Committee. As member of the committee, Senator Fischer has worked closely on funding issues related to mutual defense between Israel and the United States, including Iron Dome and David's Sling. This trip will provide me with first hand briefings and site visits to more fully understand security challenges in the region, enabling me to better serve the senator as she continues her work on the Armed Services Committee promoting mutual cooperation between these two allies.

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In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)**

Travel date(s): May 25 - June 2, 2019

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

**Expenses for Employee:**

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$5,783.54	\$1,840.23	\$1,172.39	\$3,459.76 (please see attached)

**Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):**


Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable)				
	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6/20/19  
(Date)

Joe Hack  
(Printed name)

  
(Signature of traveler)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:**

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

6/20/19  
(Date)

*Det Fisher*  
(Signature of Supervising Senior)

### Breakdown of "other" expenses:

**Security: \$1,333.12 per person**

**Speaker Fees: \$567.39 per person**

**Tour Guide: \$320.53 per person**

**Room Rentals: \$174.75 per person**

**Other: \$106.75 per person**

**Transportation for contract staff and speakers: \$61.38 per person**

**Entrance Fees: \$37.07 per person**

**Photography: \$31.57 per person**

**Tips: \$7.34 per person**

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**From:** Hack, Joe (Fischer)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2019 6:42 AM  
**To:** Abboud, Molly (Fischer)  
**Subject:** Fwd: AIEF Seminar in Israel: May 25-June 2, 2019

**Begin forwarded message:**

**From:** <[sallen@aiefdn.org](mailto:sallen@aiefdn.org)>  
**Date:** March 29, 2019 at 9:13:59 AM GMT+12  
**To:** <[joe\\_hack@fischer.senate.gov](mailto:joe_hack@fischer.senate.gov)>  
**Subject:** AIEF Seminar in Israel: May 25-June 2, 2019



AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**March 28, 2019**

**Joe Hack**  
**The Office of the Honorable Deb Fischer**  
**454 Russell Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in an educational seminar in Israel for Senate and House Chiefs of Staff, May 25 – June 2, 2019. The trip will depart Saturday afternoon, May 25; and return to the U.S. on Sunday morning, June 2.



Participants will hear a wide array of viewpoints, including discussions with: members of the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Authority; U.S. government officials; military leaders; heads of non-governmental organizations; and prominent academics and journalists. The program will also include visits to historic and religious sites in Jerusalem and the Galilee.

We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a rich, insightful and educational trip. To confirm your participation, please [click here](#) to complete the confirmation form, and return to [sallen@aiefdn.org](mailto:sallen@aiefdn.org). If you have any questions, please contact Rob Bassin at (202) 639-5279 or [rbassin@aipac.org](mailto:rbassin@aipac.org).

Rich L. Fishman.


AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION | The Charitable Organization affiliated with AIAC  
2511 14 Street, NW | Washington, DC 20001 | Phone: 202-639-5700 | Fax: 202-347-5232

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2019-SEP 11 PM 12:06

**SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING**

Purpose of Amendment (describe the reason for amending original submission): The Amendment  
contains the final itinerary that includes descriptions and explanations for each event.

  
(Signature of Traveler)

100-443887-100

100-443887-100

**Saturday, May 25, 2019**

6:21 PM Arrive Newark

**Sunday, May 26, 2019**

6:30 PM                      Check-in to the Orient Hotel

7:15 PM Depart for dinner

8:00-10:00 PM      *State of the Nation*  
Dinner with David Horowitz  
Founding Editor, *The Times of Israel*  
- at Touro

David Horovitz is the founding editor of *Times of Israel*, the leading current affairs website in Israel. Mr. Horovitz is will provide staff with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters.

## Shalom Jerusalem

Throughout its 4,000-year history, the city of Jerusalem has changed hands many times. As home to the world's three great monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — Jerusalem is probably the most disputed city in history. Today, the status of Jerusalem remains

10:30 PM                      Overnight at the Orient Hotel

7:30 AM Breakfast is served  
-at the hotel

It is critical for trip participants to have an understanding of the parliamentary system in Israel. Professor Hazan explains how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

9:15 AM-12:15 PM    *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part I:*  
The Historic and Holy Basin and City of David  
Guided Survey of the Old City of Jerusalem with Ze'ev Orenstein

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. During the Camp David II talks, the Palestinians and Israelis differed on the Jerusalem question, namely the Old City, the status of Arab neighborhoods just outside the Old City, and religious sites such as the Temple Mount.

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12:45-1:45 PM      *Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: How Wide is the Gap?*  
Lunch with Tal Becker  
Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
-at Caffit Botanical Gardens

Since Israel's founding, the Jewish state has sought to reach a just and lasting solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The United States has been closely involved in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Dr. Tal Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israel's most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator, and key behind the scenes representative, for Israel in a wide variety of contexts. During this session, he will address the prospects for peace in the current political climate. He will also discuss the complex challenges that have prevented a final status agreement thus far.

2:15-2:45 PM *Strategic Survey of Jerusalem – Part II:*  
Post-1967 Neighborhoods and the Security Barrier

When Jerusalem was reunified in 1967, following 19 years of division, the State of Israel extended the city's boundaries to include the strategic hills surrounding Jerusalem. These hills served as launching pads between 1948 and 1967 for sniper and mortar attacks on Israeli parts of the city by the Jordanian Army. Since 1967, these hills have become vibrant neighborhoods, fully integrated into the fabric of Jerusalem. It is vital for those discussing the issue of Jerusalem to understand these neighborhoods' strategic importance and their relationship to the areas in the immediate vicinity.

3:15-4:30 PM *Meetings with Members of Knesset*

- The Honorable Nir Barkat, Likud
- The Honorable Yair Lapid, Blue & White Party

-at the Knesset

Coming just months after new elections, participants will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the governing party in the coalition (Likud), and one of the opposition parties (Blue and White Party). The Honorable Nir Barkat and the Honorable Yair Lapid will offer their perspectives on the new Knesset, and their party's position on the major issues of the day.

8:00-10:00 PM      Dinner  
-at Tali's Atelier

This dinner will just be the participants, in order to allow the group to process what they've experienced thus far.

10:30 PM                      Overnight at the Orient Hotel

7:45 AM Breakfast is served  
- at the hotel

8:00-9:00 AM *U.S.-Israel Relations*  
Breakfast with Aryeh Lightstone

During each seminar, we invite Ambassador David Friedman or a member of his staff to address the group and share the Embassy's perspective on U.S.-Israel relations and the state of affairs in Israel.

9:45-11:45 AM      *Remembering the Victims of the Holocaust* .  
Visit to Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum

One cannot understand Israel's position on Iran's nuclear program without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, was established in 1953 by an act of the Israeli Knesset. Since its inception, Yad Vashem has been entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust period, preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims, and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust for generations to come through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations. Located on Har Hazikaron (the Mount of Remembrance) in

Every foreign leader that travels to Israel visits Yad Vashem. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the group through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

12:30-1:45 PM *A View from the Palestinian Authority*  
Meeting with Dr. Saeb Erekat  
Chief Negotiator, Palestinian Authority  
- at his office in Ramallah

During each seminar, we invite a representative of the Palestinian Authority to address the group. Dr. Erekat will present the current state of Palestinian Authority Affairs, including the Palestinian perspective on the issues of the day, as well as relations with Israel and prospects for peace.

2:45-3:45 PM *A View from the Prime Minister's Office*  
Meeting with Reuven Azar  
Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister  
- at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

During each seminar, we invite a representative of the Prime Minister's office to address the group. Mr. Azar will present the official Israel perspective on the issues of the day, as well as relations with the Palestinian Authority and prospects for peace.

7:30 PM Depart for dinner

7:45-9:45 PM      *Start-Up Nation*  
 Dinner with  
     Dovie Meisel, United Hatzalah  
     ■ Cathy Sebag, Head of Products, Mobile ODT  
     ■ Dr. Yonatan Wexler, OrCam  
 Moderated by Inbal Arieli, Tech Entrepreneur  
 - at Deca

### **Start-Up Nation**

Israel is a giant when it comes to innovation: a global leader in R&D spending and Venture Capital investment, and home to global R&D centers for the likes of Google, Apple and IBM. This evening's Start-Up Nation dinner will include a discussion with entrepreneurs representing Israeli innovation and ingenuity that has had enormous impact both in Israel and abroad.

10:00 PM              Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

### **Wednesday, May 29, 2019**

7:00 AM              Breakfast on your own

7:45 AM              Depart

8:15-9:45 AM      *Save a Child's Heart*  
 Meet with Dr. Houri and Visit the Recovery Home  
 -Wolfson Hospital

### **Save a Child's Heart**

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is an Israeli- based international, non-profit organization. SACH is committed to saving lives by improving the quality of cardiac care for children from developing countries and creating centers of medical competence in these countries. SACH Israel has saved the lives of over 3,700 children from 50 countries where adequate medical care is simply unavailable. Approximately 50% of these children are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco (countries with whom Israel has either no diplomatic relations or who are in a state of war with Israel). More than 30% are from Africa, and the remainder are from Asia, Eastern Europe and the Americas. These children are treated at the Wolfson Medical Center and housed at the Legacy Heritage Children's Home of Save a Child's Heart, both located in Holon.

9:45 AM              Depart

10:45 AM-12:45 PM *Israel's Southern Front*  
     ■ Visit Netiv Ha'asara and meet with local residents  
     ■ Overlook into Gaza and Visit to Peace Wall  
 -at Netiv Ha'asara



Since 2001, Israeli communities bordering the Gaza Strip have been living under the threat of rocket fire. Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, the volume, range and accuracy of the rockets has only increased. The summer of 2014 witnessed Operation Protective Edge, which returned the issue of rocket fire from Gaza to international headlines. At Kibbutz Nir Am, participants will be able to see the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, to better comprehend the landscape of the region, as well as the unique challenges faced by this area. The visit to Kibbutz Kfar Azza and meeting with a local resident will be an opportunity to better understand the reality of living just kilometers from Israel's border with Gaza, to learn how almost 15 years of rocket fire has shaped those living in the communities most affected, to discuss the advent of Hamas "terror tunnels" into Israel's border towns and how communities have sought to cope with the threat on their doorstep, both physically and psychologically.

1:00-1:30 PM	<i>Israel's Missile Defense Systems</i> Visit to Iron Dome Battery
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The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) typically honors our request to visit an Iron Dome battery, the joint U.S.-Israel funded rocket defense program. The military typically approves any visit to an Iron Dome location the week before the trip due to the constantly shifting security situation on the ground. A visit to an Iron Dome battery includes meeting with the soldiers and the commanding officer. For security reasons, we do not receive the names of the IDF soldiers meeting with the group.

1:30 PM	Depart
3:00-4:00 PM	<i>Israel-U.S. Strategic Partnership</i> Briefing with Ari Sacher Rocket Scientist, Rafael -at the Hotel

Ari Sacher is a Rocket Scientist and has worked in the design and development of missiles for over twenty years. He has briefed hundreds of US Congressmen on Israeli Missile Defense and speaks regularly for the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Ari is highly regarded speaker, enabling even the layman to understand the "rocket science". During this session, he will explain the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation that has led to Israel's development of multi-tiered missile defense system.

4:15-5:00 PM      360 Bird's Eye View of Israel  
Briefing at the Azrieli Center Helipad

From the rooftop of the Azrieli center, participants will be standing at the highest observatory in the Middle East. The panoramic view stretches from Ashkelon in the south to Hadera in the north. On a clear day one see almost 70 percent of the country, as far as Jerusalem to the East. The importance of this visit is to provide participants a geostrategic viewpoint from which to understand the narrow waistline of Israel, which at its narrowest spans 9 miles from the Mediterranean to the West Bank. Additionally, the area visible from this vantage point – referred to as the Gedera-Hadera corridor – comprises a small rectangle of land that can be covered lengthwise in under an hour. This section of Israel includes over 50% of Israel's population, economic infrastructure, as well as its only International Airport.

7:50 PM	Depart for dinner
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8:00-9:45 PM *Israelis from Different Walks of Life*

- Dr. Yasmeeen Abu Fraiha  
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Genesis  
Chen Arieli, Chairperson, Aguda-National LGBT Task Force
- Rivka Ravitz, Chief of Staff to the President of Israel
- Racheli Yaso  
Development Officer and Visitor Relations Director, Yemin Orde

- at Lumina

10:00 PM                      Overnight at the Carlton Tel Aviv Hotel

8:00 AM	Breakfast is served - at the hotel
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8:15-9:15 AM      *Regional Strategic Threats*  
Meeting with Assaf Orion  
Senior Research Fellow,  
The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)  
- at the hotel

As the delegation leaves the Gaza border, and heads north to the borders with Lebanon and Syria, it is critical to understand the threats faced by Israel from these three areas, all Iranian proxies. The briefing will cover the unique situation at each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

9:30 AM Depart

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10:30-11:15 AM *Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns*  
Briefing at Alfei Menashe

## Israel's Narrow Waistline – Strategic Concerns

Alfei Menashe is a Jewish community located on the western edge of the West Bank. Less than 10 miles from the Mediterranean Sea, Alfei Menashe provides a unique vantage point to discuss Israeli settlement policy, the routing of the security barrier, as well as Israel's narrow waistline.

The sliver of Israeli land west of the West Bank is often referred to as the Hadera-Gadera rectangle, with the city of Hadera denoting the northern point, and the city of Gadera the southern point. The Hadera-Gadera rectangle is home to over 50 percent of Israel's population, as well as civilian infrastructure. The area is also home to Israel's "Silicon Valley", as well as Ben Gurion international airport.

The discussion at Alfei Menashe will allow participants to see firsthand the proximity of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in both Israel and the West Bank; as well as the strategic threats faced by the Israeli population living in Israel's narrow waistline.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM *Settlements in Focus*

- Shaqued Morag, Head of Peace Now
  - Eliana Passentin, Int'l Desk Director, Binyamin Regional Council
- at the Community Center, Alfei Menashe

## Settlements in Focus

Israeli settlement policy is one of the more complex issues in the ongoing negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. This session provides an opportunity for members to get an insider's perspective on Israeli settlement policy, the differing views among Israeli citizens, and the role settlements play in the current political climate.

12:15 PM Depart

12:50-1:30 PM      Lunch  
-at Givat Haviva Dining Hall

2:30-3:30 PM Depart

## En route briefings:

- *The Jezreel Valley – Strategic Land Bridge connecting Asia and Africa*
- *Upper Galilee – Potential for Development*

## The Jezreel Valley

Our tour guide will spend an hour during the drive from Israel's center to the north to provide the delegation a briefing on the Jezreel Valley and the Upper Galilee and the challenges facing these regions of the country.

For thousands of years, the Jezreel Valley served as a land bridge linking Africa, Asia and Europe, and serving as a thoroughfare for ancient caravans and, more frequently, armies. In





holds an MA in Middle East Studies from Ben Gurion University and is a resident of the northern Galilee region. She will brief the group on the current threats facing Israel by Iranian backed Hizballah in Lebanon.

5:30 PM Depart

6:30 PM                      Check-in to Europa Hotel

7:45 PM	Depart for dinner
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8:00-10:00 PM      *Reflections on the Week*  
- Dinner at Decks

## Reflections on the Week

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to discuss the topics and perspectives presented to them assists them in their ability to more fully understand the complexities Israel faces.

10:30 PM                      Overnight at the Europa Hotel

**Friday, May 31, 2019**

**8:00 AM** Breakfast at the Hotel

8:30 AM Depart

9:00-11:00 AM *Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee*  
Survey of historical and religious sites around the Sea of Galilee  
Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount

- St. Peter's Church
- Capernaum – Jesus' Village

## Christian Sites at the Sea of Galilee

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the group will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum and St. Peter's Church.

11:00 AM Depart for the Golan Heights



12:00-1:15 PM      *Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria*  
Strategic survey of Israel's border with Syria  
With Cpt. (Res.) Ilan Shulman  
- at Kibbutz Ein Zivan

## Israel's Northern Border Concerns: Syria

Captain (Res.) Ilan Shulman, a disabled IDF veteran, divides his time guiding geopolitical tours on the Galilee and Golan Heights, lecturing to students, giving geo-political briefings for delegations through various Israeli foreign ministry programs, and fulfilling his IDF reserve duties in the Northern Command's intelligence unit. Shulman was raised in Kibbutz Merom Golan near Israel's border with Syria, where one of his favorite jobs was herding the kibbutz cattle. Shulman served in the IDF's paratrooper's unit, rising to the position of company commander. He holds a BA in Israel and Middle East Studies. During this session he will take participants to the border between Israel and Syria and provide an overview of the Syrian civil war.

1:30-2:30 PM      *Ethics in the IDF*  
Lunch with IDF Soldiers  
-at HaBokrim

## Ethics in the IDF

**Ruach Tzahal** (Literally, 'Spirit of the IDF') represents the values of the Israel Defense Forces and stands as the foundation for the responsibilities of Israel's army. This overarching ethical code, and the guidelines and operation resulting from it, shape the mode of action applied by all IDF soldiers and units, both in peace and at war. During basic training, every IDF soldier studies and analyzes the code of ethics together with their commanders. It is customary for a framed copy of the code to be hung in every commander's office as a constant reminder of the IDF's values and guidelines. During lunch, participants will be joined by soldiers in the Northern Command, who will discuss the challenges of serving in a region overtaken by the Syrian civil war.

2:30-3:30 PM Travel back to Jerusalem via the Jordan Valley  
En route briefing:  
*Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis*

## Jordan: Relations with Israel, and the Growing Refugee Crisis

The tour guide will spend approximately an hour during the drive through the Jordan Valley to explore several topics related to Israel's eastern neighbor: specifically, Israeli-Jordanian strategic cooperation, as well as the implications of the Syrian civil war on the Kingdom.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan became the second Arab country after Egypt to recognize Israel when it signed a comprehensive peace agreement that ended nearly five decades of warfare. Shepherded by United States President Bill Clinton, the accord signed on Oct. 6, 1994, marked the onset of a new era of economic, cultural, and political dialogue and cooperation between the two countries.



9:30-10:30 AM *History and Geopolitics of the Roman Empire*  
Guided survey of the National Archeological Park at Masada

We will spend approximately two hours atop of Masada with a professional guide. The time at Masada with the guide is focused on three areas: 1. touring the ancient excavations; 2. learning the narrative of Jewish resistance to the Romans backed by the archeological and historical evidence; 3. discussing the importance of the Masada story to the contemporary Middle East and the threats in the region.

It is important to note that the region is mostly desert. For decades, Israel has been challenging this arid area and developing its agricultural potential. While the Middle East is suffering from water shortages, Israel, through modern technology and water conservation policies, including the recycling of over 80 percent of water used for domestic purposes and transferring it to agriculture, has literally “made the desert bloom.” Some of this technology is already being



The key regional players also face serious environmental issues in the Dead Sea region. One of the major environmental concerns is the receding of the Dead Sea and the appearance of sinkholes, which cause the earth above to collapse. Roads, fields and buildings have collapsed due to this phenomenon, and experts are concerned the tourist infrastructure along the Jordanian and Israeli shores of the Dead Sea are also in danger. This issue has led to unprecedented cooperation between Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and serves as a model for regional cooperation.

2:00-3:30 PM      Lunch  
-in the Old City

7:00-9:00 PM      *The U.S.-Israel Relationship: Bringing it All Together*  
Closing dinner

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; from the conflict plagued northern borders with Syria and Lebanon, to the environmental and geographical wonders of the Negev desert and the Dead Sea. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

**Sunday, June 2, 2019**

5:50 AM                      Arrive Dulles



**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
Senior Congressional Staff  
May 25 – June 2, 2019**

**Senate Invitees**

1. Rey Benitez, The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
2. Doug Coutts, The Honorable Tom Cotton (R-AR)
3. Joe Hack, The Honorable Deb Fischer (R-NE)
4. Mark Johnston, The Honorable Mike Rounds (R-SD)
5. Kyle Plotkin, The Honorable Josh Hawley (R-MO)
6. Jonathan Stahler, The Honorable Chris Coons (D-DE)